

BRIGHTLINGSEA *BSS*  
URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1958





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BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for 1958

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Vice-Chairman:

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Cr. L. Barnard

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R. D. PEARCE, M.R.C.S.(Eng), L.R.C.P.(Lon), D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of  
Brightlingsea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton, the Rural District  
of Tendring and Assistant County Medical Officer.

J. COLVIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspector  
Surveyor  
Meat and Food Inspector  
Water Engineer.

Town Hall,  
Brightlingsea.

Telephone No:  
Brightlingsea 26.

January, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is again my pleasure to present the Annual Report on the state of public health in the Urban District of Brightlingsea.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious disease received for the year was 48, and whooping cough accounted for 38 of these. In 1957 there were 64 cases of infectious disease notified and these, of course, included the outbreak of Poliomyelitis we had that year. There were no cases of poliomyelitis notified during 1958. It is interesting to record that 382 people in Brightlingsea have, at the time of writing this report, received poliomyelitis vaccination, although at this stage it is not possible to regard this as bearing any relationship to the absence of poliomyelitis in the district during the year.

#### IMMUNISATION

A large number of the public have taken advantage of the facilities offered for poliomyelitis vaccination by the County Health Service.

Many people are now protected against the disease and it would seem that this must cause a change in the pattern of future outbreaks. Epidemiologists will watch with considerable interest any change of this nature.

We must however continue to call the attention of parents to the importance of whooping cough and diphtheria immunisation and to vaccination against smallpox, all of which are most important.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Population:

The Registrar General's estimation of the population has increased by 20.

### Live Births:

The number of births is 15 more than in 1957 and the corrected birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales for 1958.

### Still Births:

There were no stillbirths in 1958 in comparison with three in 1957.

### Deaths:

The corrected death rate is 2.6 higher than the previous year and 1.3 lower than the National rate.

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year.

## HOUSING

The Council continued with their building programme during the year. 42 houses were built on land adjacent to previous housing schemes in the North of the town. The provision of these new houses has greatly reduced the waiting list.

One small clearance area was declared and the tenants requiring rehousing were accommodated by the Council. The programme for clearing the unfit property will continue, although there seems little doubt that recent legislation will encourage the repair and improvement of much substandard property.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

In November a National "Guard that Fire" Campaign was launched by the Ministry of Health with support from Local Authorities.

In my Districts the campaign was well patronised.

Fire Officers gave lectures in the school, ironmongers staged displays of fire guards, leaflets were distributed and in the cinemas short films were projected as part of the programme. Our thanks must be recorded to all those who co-operated in making the campaign a success. It is sincerely hoped that as a result of this propaganda the number of burning accidents in the home will be considerably reduced.

#### GENERAL

It is pleasing to be able to express my gratitude to the Public Health Committee and to the Council as a whole for the co-operation during the year. To the Staff of the Public Health Department I express my thanks for their work during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.D.PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.



# STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIGHTLINGSEA 1958

Area in acres	...	...	2,852
Population:			
1958 Registrar General's Estimate			4,650
1951 Census	...	...	4,502
Density of population per acre	...	...	1.6
Rateable value	...	...	£47,219
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£196
Number of inhabited dwellings (approx.)			1,788
Total live births	...	...	70
Birth rate (crude)	...	...	15.05
Birth rate corrected	...	...	17.75
Birth rate (England and Wales)	...	...	16.4
Total live and still births	...	...	70
Total still births	...	...	-
Still birth rate	...	...	-
Still birth rate (England and Wales)	...	...	21.6
Total deaths	...	...	69
Death rate (crude)	...	...	14.84
Death rate (corrected)	...	...	10.4
Death rate (England and Wales)	...	...	11.7
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	3
Infant mortality rate	...	...	42.8
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			22.5
Infant mortality rate - legitimate	...	...	29.8
Infant mortality rate - illegitimate	...	...	333.3
Neo-natal mortality rate	...	...	29.8
Number of illegitimate births	...	...	3
Percentage of total births	...	...	4.3
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil
Maternal deaths	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate	...	...	Nil
Cancer deaths	...	...	10
Tuberculosis deaths	...	...	Nil

# LIVE BIRTHS

Male	Female
32	38
Total	70.

The principal causes of, and various ages at, death are given in the following tables:-

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1958.

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-
Cancer (all sites) ...	3	7	10
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4	10
Coronary artery disease	8	4	12
Other heart disease ...	2	6	8
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
Pneumonia ...	3	1	4
Bronchitis ...	2	3	5
Diabetes ...	1	2	3
Other causes ...	3	5	8
Blood diseases ...	1	-	1
Accidents ...	3	1	4
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 69

## DEATH AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1958.

Under 1 year	...	3
5 and under 15 years	...	2
35 and under 45 years	...	4
45 and under 55 years	...	5
55 and under 65 years	...	6
65 and under 75 years	...	15
75 and under 85 years	...	26
85 and over	...	8
		<hr/> 69



## PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following figures show the number of infectious diseases which were notified in the district during 1958:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases to Hospital	Cases at Home	Cases Confirmed	Deaths
Infective					
Hepatitis	1	-	1	1	-
Measles	6	-	6	6	-
Pneumonia	2	-	2	2	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	38	-	38	38	-
Totals:	48	-	48	48	-

### TUBERCULOSIS 1958

One new case of Tuberculosis was notified as occurring in the district.

TOTAL CASES ON REGISTER AT END OF 1958 = 34.

The age groups of the cases on the register are as follows:-

Age Groups in Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1 - 5	1	-	-	1	2
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	1
15 - 25	3	1	1	1	6
25 - 35	4	3	1	-	8
35 - 45	3	1	-	1	5
45 - 55	5	-	1	-	6
55 - 65	2	2	-	-	4
65 - 75	1	-	1	-	2
Totals:	19	8	4	3	34

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLIES

After long service with the Urban District Council the Water Manager, Mr. I. S. Priest, retired in May 1958 and complete control of the Undertaking was placed in the hands of the Surveyor's Department.

On taking over responsibility for the Waterworks, a survey of the equipment was made and was found to be generally operating in a very satisfactory condition. The inspection, however, did reveal that the electric pump at the Church Road Waterworks was in need of reconditioning and this work was placed in hand and completed satisfactorily.

The survey of the Waterworks which took place at the time of taking over revealed that no up-to-date reliable plan of the town's water mains was available and measures were taken to correct this omission. A sectional plan at 1/1250 Scale has been prepared which indicates the position of the mains, sizes, and valves as far as can be ascertained.

During the year a section of 3" water was laid along Robinson Road in view of the proposed reconstruction of Red Barn Road and Bell Green Corner. This main, as well as providing a supply for possible building development, also replaced a considerable number of individual service pipes, many in doubtful condition, which were supplying the existing properties in this area.

Arising from the change of Direction of the Waterworks, it was also decided to streamline the Recordkeeping System and a new Register was prepared to replace the three existing books.

Samples of water from Wells and Mains were submitted for Bacteriological examination and Chemical Analysis during the year; all samples were commented on satisfactorily and were of suitable standard for drinking purposes. No significant increase in the saline content in the water from the deep Well was experienced and this may have been due to the exceptional rainfall which was experienced during the last year. Statistics have revealed that the rainfall for 1958 as a percentage of the average for the years 1916 - 1950 was 160%.

Records have shown some reduction in the consumption of water per head of population and whilst special attention has been given to reducing loss of water through wastage, this improvement may be due to the alteration in Recordkeeping.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

As referred to in the report on the Water Supplies, the area of Essex in which Brightlingsea is situated, was subject to abnormal rainfall during the year 1958. This situation gave rise to serious difficulties with the town's sewerage system and surcharging took place on frequent occasions resulting in manhole covers being lifted at critical points in the system.

In view of these facts and also the slow progress of the survey of the town's sewers it was decided to appoint Consulting Engineers to complete this work and report on improvements necessary to both the Sewage System and Sewerage Disposal Works.

At an early stage in their investigations it was discovered that approximately 1,000 ft. of dual 15" sewer pipe was silted up and immediate steps were taken to have these pipes cleared.

Whilst this work will, no doubt, assist in reducing the incidence of surcharging there is no doubt that the Consultants final report will call for considerable increase in the size of the pipes in the lower part of the town which discharge to the Sewerage Disposal Works.

#### RIVER AND STREAM POLLUTION

This discharge of sewage effluent is still restricted to a period of 2 to 4 hours after high water and no direct pollution of the Brightlingsea Creek or Colne River Estuary is believed to have been caused by the operation of the Disposal Works.

#### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during 1958:-

Inspections (Public Health and Housing Acts)	562
Other inspections	372



## DUSTBINS

Defective or insufficient

24

Includes Local Authority Property \*

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

### Number of Infested Houses

(a)	Council Houses	Nil
(b)	Other Houses	Nil
(c)	Caravans	Nil

### Number of Houses Disinfested

(a)	Council Houses	Nil
(b)	Other Houses	-
(c)	Caravans	-

## VERMIN, MOTH, ETC.,

Rooms fumigated	)	
Houses fumigated	)	Nil
Caravans fumigated	)	

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Premises registered	)	
Inspections at premises	)	Nil

## SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Inspections have been made from time to time and action to enforce compliance with the Act has been taken where necessary.

## RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

There are no manufacturers of Rag Flock within the Urban District.

## BATHING POOL

The Bathing Pool continues to be operated satisfactorily but falls far short of modern standards in the matter of filtration or chlorination.

The structure of the Pool is rapidly reaching the

stage when complete reconstruction will have to be considered.

#### CARAVAN AND CAMPING GROUNDS

The Local Authority continue to operate the only two large Caravan Sites in the district. The call for further accommodation is increasing and steps are being taken to acquire additional land for this expansion.

Proposals are also in hand for the extension of the sanitary accommodation.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

Visits by Public Health Inspector	55
Visits by the Rodent Operator	155

#### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

##### PART I OF THE ACT

##### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	M/c Line No. (2)	Number on Reg- ister (3)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (6)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	5	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	24	24	1	-



Premises	M/c Line No. (2)	Number on Reg- ister (3)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (6)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	3	5	11	-	-
Totals:		34	40	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	M/c Line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	7	-	-	-	-	-



Particulars (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a)						
Insufficient (b)	9	-	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or Defective (c)	10	2	2	-	2	-
Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	12	1	1	-	-	-
Totals:		3	3	-	2	-

## SECTION 34.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

One certificate was issued during the year.

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### OUTWORK (SECTION 110)

Nature of work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (e) (3)	Section 110 No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)
Wearing Apparel, Making etc.	-	10	-	-
Totals:	-	10	-	-

Inspection of Outworkers Premises 3.

## HOUSING

New Houses and Flats erected during 1958

Number of Houses

Private Enterprise	10
Council Houses	32
Council Flats	4

—  
46  
—

## FOOD

The following list shows the number of visits paid to premises at which food for human consumption is sold or prepared:-

Cafes and Restaurants	...	4
School Canteens	...	1
Butcher's Shops	...	40
Fish Friers	...	4
Wet Fish Shops	...	4
Bread and Cake Shops	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	35
Ice Cream Vendors	...	10
Bakehouses	...	3
Dairies	...	1

The following is a list of improvements obtained in Food Premises:-

Want of Washing Facilities	...	1
Want of Cleanliness	...	1
Conditions of Walls	...	1
Conditions of Ceilings	...	1
Defects in drainage	...	1
Sanitary Accommodation	...	-

## REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

The number of premises registered pursuant to Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is as follows:-

Sausage Meat, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Meat	...	6
Sale of Ice Cream	...	15

## FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority for the District.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are two licensed slaughterhouses.

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other foods found unfit for human consumption. They were surrendered voluntarily and destroyed or used for animal feeding.

Unsound food dealt with by the Council is disposed of at the Controlled Tip.

Corned Beef	3	6 lb tins
Chopped Pork	5	4 lb tins
Cooked Shoulder	2	9 lb tins

Carcases inspect and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	108
Number Inspected	-	-	-	-	108
Diseases except Tuberculosis and <u>Cysticerci</u> :					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and <u>Cysticerci</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with <u>Tuberculosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

## MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply for the Urban District is obtained from Dairy Companies in the Area.

### MILK (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

There are 9 registered distributors supplying milk in the District of whom 6 have premises within the area.

Dealer's Licences Pasteurised Milk	5
Supplementary Licences Pasteurised Milk	1
Dealer's Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Supplementary Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Dealer's Licence Sterilised Milk	4

Producers and Producer-retailers are the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture.

## ICE CREAM

The total number of persons registered to sell ice cream is 15. No ice cream is sold in this District except as pre-wrapped from reputable sources. All samples of ice cream examined were Grade I.

## BAKEHOUSES

There are four bakehouses in the Urban District, but there are no underground bakehouses. Three inspections were made during the year.

## SHELLFISH

During 1958, 946,171 Oysters were passed through the purification tanks at Brightlingsea. No unsatisfactory results were obtained from bacteriological examinations.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Public Cleansing continues to be carried out satisfactorily in the area and summer tipping is now taking place on the new site in Back Road.

Every effort is being made to operate in accordance with the Ministry of Health Regulations and any complaints of nuisance are immediately attended to.

Street gullies are emptied mechanically three times per year.

